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the activities of the present, will shape the world of the future. His book he describes as "the first endeavor to furnish in a single volume, a short, readable account of all the forces that are working for the betterment of American young people" (p. vii).

Starting with the home as the fundamental social institution, he asks the pertinent question, "why is it that, since parenthood is the business at which most of us spend three-fourths of our time, the state should allow it to be taught only to spinster school teachers?" Obviously such a situation is intolerable. The knowledge of the rights and duties of parenthood, of eugenics and of the first principles of education is essential to every one in a democracy. Then too, there is another side to the problem. It is not enough that children should be trained for parenthood, they must likewise be prepared for citizenship, and "inspired to hand down the torch, to endeavor to perpetuate civilization, to make the world better for their children and their children better for the world. This question is the latest thing in education and in religion" (p. 376).

The author's viewpoint is keen and progressive. His authorities are sound, yet his book fails in the purpose set forth in his preface because he has not successfully correlated the factors involved in the shaping of the coming generation.

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Gell, W. E. *Eighteen Capitals of China*. Pp. xx, 429. Price, \$5.00. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1911.

History to be interesting, we have been told, should read like a romance. This book meets the condition. In describing the Eighteen Capitals of China, the author has written the history of the Chinese Empire with all the charm and grace of a romance. The forces that have molded and shaped the politics, literature, arts, religions and the social institutions are forcefully and interestingly discussed. The keen diplomatic traits of the Chinese officials are clearly demonstrated. The vices and the virtues of the people are shown. Besides containing a wealth of historical data, the book abounds with Chinese folk-lore, excerpts of literature, and poetry. At the top of almost every other page is a Chinese maxim in Chinese and English. This collection adds greatly to the already high value of the book. In the light of the present situation in China one of these maxims is significant, "Even a tile will turn some day." The real causes that have changed affairs in China are described in this book. The Old and the New China are strikingly contrasted. The heroic and noble works of the medical missionaries and the Chinese will stimulate to greater deeds all humanitarians. The book is beautifully illustrated. It contains more than one hundred and thirty photo cuts. So many of the written characters have been explained that we suggest to all contemplating the taking up of the Chinese language as a study that they first read this book. It will help them "to breathe the atmosphere."

CUTHBERT P. NEWTON.

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